

SB 219 -- Scrap Metal Theft Bill

Good Morning...My name is Kristy Pfeifer with Ken Pfeifer Salvage, from Rural Ellis County near Hays. Our Family owns/operates a small salvage operation in Western Kansas. We Recycle metals, autos and more. (*Trucks, Cars, Combines, Implements, Oil Pumping Units, Appliances, Mowers, Bicycles, Radiators, Batteries, Brass, Copper, Steel Siding, Windows, Doors, Guttering, Galvanized Buckets, Faucets, and Household Pots & Pans*) -- Keeping our communities clean!

Requesting Revisions/Additions... to SB 219. We're not in favor of the Database, but believe changes are needed.

- **Exclude Business to Business transactions, Commercial Clients, Farmers, Governments including City, State, Utility, Municipalities and other Metal Recyclers.**
- **Track Copper and Battery transactions only. (Exclude Steel, Aluminum, Tin & Small items)** Why are we tracking a washer/dryer/refrigerator/toaster oven/farm equipment like a combine/oil field pumping unit, galvanized grain bucket, household pots and pans, etc.?
- **Add Alert & Notification type system so salvage/metal dealers are aware or notified of thefts and what to be looking for.** You're not letting the folks on the front line know about potential stolen items are being accepted. Let us know about items that are potentially involved in a theft. Statewide notifications, across county lines, etc. are needed to inform the industry about specific items missing.
- **Local Landfills, County Recycling Centers & Business Dismantlers need to follow the same Recycling Rules as Metal Recyclers.** Our Local Landfill accepts metals, appliances without having photos, tickets, driver's licenses, or detailed information from person dropping or dumping items that are potentially stolen/hot & required to submit information to the State of KS Database. Nothing currently not being tracked, monitored or documented.
- **Halt Traveling Gypsies in local communities.** Buyers stopping along communities offering to buy metals and other specific items. Create Laws to prevent that type of activities statewide. Not Reporting to Database!

Fact Stat #1 National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) indicated thefts continue downward trend. 94% Metal Highest thefts in KS are in reported in Metro Areas of Kansas City, Topeka, & Wichita and those bordering counties according to the map and reports. And NICB reports 98% of the claims were Copper Thefts. 64% were Personal Policy claims, 36% were Commercial Policies. Thefts did not follow metal prices. Copper Prices climbed in 2017, and claims continued to decreased throughout 2017 while the **Kansas HB-2312** Law was in place and working (pg5 line 9c) -- requiring metal sellers to present their driver's licenses before selling scrap metals. (HB 2048 was not in full force-Database was still on hold, not all dealers registered or went out business).

Fact Stat #2 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in Nov 2018, a resolution was passed and called upon law enforcement to recognize recyclers as "Partners" and utilize tools such as "ScrapTheftAlert.com" to report metal thefts. Law Enforcement can not prevent metal thefts by themselves they need the support and cooperation of recyclers to have success by working together!

The current process is 1 sided. Salvage operators are doing all the work, have all the required records, photos on file for Law Enforcement to go thru all the details they need to apprehend the criminal element. Without notifications to dealers, an important step is being left out of the process to assist law enforcement or catch the bad guys. **Already by asking for driver's licenses many customers have stopped coming to our facilities.**

Metal Recyclers and Salvage Operators are honest folks and without the important link to us from Law Enforcement, how can we help stop or prevent criminals from selling items, or buying those potential items if we do not know about them?

Let's work together to create a bill that covers all areas of concern without a financial burden upon one side or the other. Funding is an issue on both sides. We need to be a stronger force "Working Together" against criminal activities. Thank You for your time and consideration on making the necessary changes to help stop metal thefts.

Kristy Pfeifer with Ken Pfeifer Salvage (Rural Ellis County, Near Hays – In Western KS)